Insurance scheme for cancer care

3773. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that around 7 lakhs cancer cases are detected every year in the country;

(b) if so, what are the steps Government are taking for the cure of these patients;

(c) whether Government are planning to launch any special insurance scheme for the coverage of this disease like other diseases; and

(d) if so, how much time it will take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKHSMI): (a) As per the information collected by the Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research, it has been estimated that about 7-9 lakh new cancer cases are detected every year.

(b) The treatment of cancer is done by Surgery, Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy. The supportive and palliative care is provided by medical doctors for alleviation of pain, swelling, bleeding etc. These facilities are available in Government hospitals including medical colleges and district hospitals across the country. The palliative care is also being provided by 25 Regional Cancer Centres (RCC) recognized by this Ministry besides secondary and tertiary health care institutions. The treatment in Government Medical Hospitals and Regional Cancer Centres is either free or highly subsidized.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Essential drugs concept for price control

†3774. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) since when the concept of essential drugs for controlling the prices of drugs is in place and names of drugs it covers;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.